

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for assembling a flap and seal system for a gas turbine engine exhaust nozzle including a plurality of backbone assemblies, said method comprising:

attaching an attachment system including at least one strap to a basesheet; and

coupling the basesheet to a backbone using the attachment system strap.

2. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the basesheet includes a flowside and an opposite back side, attaching an attachment system further comprising:

attaching a plurality of straps to the basesheet; and

attaching at least one strap to the basesheet back side.

3. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein coupling the basesheet to a backbone further comprises coupling the basesheet to the backbone such that each attachment system strap receives a hook extending from the backbone therethrough.

4. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein coupling the basesheet to a backbone further comprises coupling the basesheet to the backbone using a mounting tab extending from the basesheet.

5. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein coupling the basesheet to a backbone further comprises orienting the basesheet relative to the backbone with the attachment system.

6. An assembly for a gas turbine engine exhaust nozzle, said assembly comprising

a basesheet;

a backbone; and

an attachment sub-assembly comprising at least one strap attached to said basesheet and configured to couple said basesheet to said backbone.

7. An assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said basesheet comprises a flowpath side and an opposite back side, said attachment sub-assembly extending from said basesheet back side.

8. An assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said basesheet comprises a flowpath side and an opposite back side, said attachment sub-assembly further comprising a plurality of straps extending from said basesheet back side and configured to couple said basesheet to said backbone.

9. An assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said backbone comprises at least one hook, said attachment sub-assembly strap configured to receive said backbone hook therethrough.

10. An assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said backbone comprises a plurality of hooks, said attachment sub-assembly further comprising a plurality of straps, each said strap configured to receive a respective backbone hook therethrough.

11. An assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said basesheet further comprises at least one opening extending therethrough, said basesheet opening configured to receive a fastener therethrough for securing said basesheet to said backbone.

12. An assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said attachment sub-assembly further comprises a mounting tab attached to said basesheet and configured to couple said basesheet to said backbone.

13. An assembly in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said attachment sub-assembly further configured to orient said basesheet relative to said backbone.

14. A gas turbine engine comprising a variable engine exhaust nozzle comprising a flap and seal system coupled to said engine exhaust nozzle, said flap and seal system comprising a basesheet, a backbone, and an attachment assembly configured to couple said basesheet to said backbone, said attachment assembly comprising at least one strap attached to said basesheet for coupling said basesheet to said backbone.

15. A gas turbine engine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said flap and seal system basesheet comprises a flowpath side and an opposite back side, said attachment assembly configured to attach said basesheet to said backbone such that said basesheet back side between said basesheet flowpath side and said backbone.

16. A gas turbine engine in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said backbone comprises at least one hook, said attachment assembly at least one strap configured to receive said at least one hook therethrough.

17. A gas turbine engine in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said attachment assembly further comprises at least one mounting tab attached to said basesheet for coupling said basesheet to said backbone.

18. A gas turbine engine in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said attachment assembly further configured to orient said basesheet with respect to said backbone.

19. A gas turbine engine in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said attachment assembly further comprises a plurality of straps attached to said basesheet.

20. A gas turbine engine in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said backbone comprises a plurality of hooks configured to couple to said basesheet.